

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

December 22, 1995

1996 BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT

The Open Enrollment period for health insurance is coming up in January 1996. This is the time to consider what medical and dental coverage you want for your 1996 plan year - the 12 months beginning February 1, 1996 and ending January 31, 1997.

Information will be sent out to all staff on January 2, 1996, including details about two new benefits being offered in 1996 - the Employee Assistance Program and Long-Term Care insurance.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BENEFITS

Effective February 1, 1996, The Field Museum is introducing two new health benefits, the Employee Assistance Program and Long-Term Care insurance.

Museum-wide orientation sessions will be held on Thursday, January 11, 1996 which will provide an overview of each of the new programs, information on how to access services, and how services may be integrated with your medical plan. Keep watching future issues of the *Natural News* for details of the orientation meetings.

A brief introduction to each of the plans follows:

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Because The Field Museum is concerned about your personal health and well-being, we are pleased to add the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to your benefit options effective February 1, 1996.

The EAP will provide you and your household members with confidential and convenient access to short-term professional counseling services and/or referral to community-based services. Our EAP provider is Green Spring through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

As part of your medical benefits, the EAP includes:

- 24-hour access to an EAP specialist (1-800-851-7498).
- Up to three annual visits, at no cost, for you and your household members with a credentialed mental health professional for assistance with family issues and/or personal issues.
- Unlimited referrals to low or no-cost community-based services for financial, legal, career, child care, elder care, or other living issues.
- Aid in receiving extended services through your medical plan.

You must be a covered participant under one

of the Museum's medical plans - the BCBS/PPO Indemnity Plan or HMO Illinois - for yourself or your household members to receive EAP services.

There is no cost for participation in this plan.

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

At one time or another, nearly everyone is touched by the need for long-term care, whether it be through an aging parent confined to a nursing home or by a disabled or chronically ill friend or relative receiving care at home. We are all at risk of needing home health or nursing home care at some point in our lives, and a prolonged illness can have a serious impact on your family's finances.

LTC insurance helps you to meet the need for long-term care without depleting your hard-earned retirement or savings funds, as it is largely a form of protection of financial assets and helps to pay for home health or nursing home care that is not usually covered by group or individual medical or disability insurance policies.

Effective February 1, 1996, we are pleased to provide you with the option of purchasing Long-Term Care (LTC) insurance coverage, provided by the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA-CREF).

Long-term care benefits include:

- Payment for care received at home from a certified home health care worker, visiting nurse, or therapist.
- Payment for services provided in

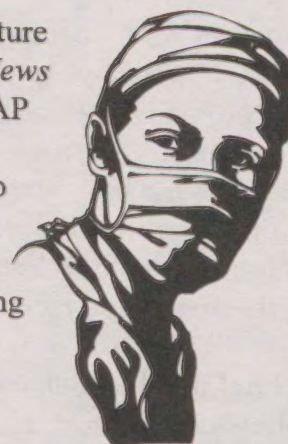
your home by a homemaker or care received in an adult day health care center.

- Nursing home care
- Payment for formal care while regular family or friend caregivers take a break or go on vacation.
- Payment for services to meet individual needs, such as modifying a home for wheelchair access.

All Museum staff members are eligible to apply for LTC insurance coverage. The plan is also available to spouses, domestic partners, parents, and parents-in-law, even if you choose not to apply. However, each individual must apply to TIAA and be medically approved individually. Applications are available in the Personnel Office.

There are a number of different plans available from which to choose and you can work directly with a TIAA representative to develop the plan best suited to your individual needs and budget. Your cost for LTC insurance is based on the plan you choose and your age at time the policy is issued.

Remember to watch future issues of the *Natural News* for details about the EAP and LTC orientation sessions. You will also find more details about these new benefits in the upcoming Open Enrollment materials.



THE FIELD MUSEUM WINTER FEST -- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please contact one of the Festivals and Games committee members if you can help out for an hour or two, or if you want to participate in or judge jump-rope or yo-yo contests. Contact **Joyce Matuszewich** at 658, **Phil Hanson** at 439, **Rosaura Boone** at 288 or **Mary Ann Bloom** at 364.

(Committee member **Ben Bronson** is currently out of the country, but you can help him with fortune telling on December 30.)

Tuesday, December 26

Performances: 11:30 Musa Mosley, African-American percussionist
1:00 p.m. Musa Mosley
1:45 p.m. Chicago Park District South Region Double Dutch Jump Rope Team
3:00 p.m. Mwata Bowden, jazz musician

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities: Kwanzaa display and activities, jump rope games, oware (African stone game.).

Refreshments: Public Relations is selling cookies and punch this day.

Wednesday, December 27

Performance: 1:00 p.m. RICE Philippine Center dancers, martial arts and tinikling.
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities: Tinikling, yo-yo's, Kwanzaa display and activities

Thursday, December 28

Performance: 1:00 p.m. Lira Singers and Dancers present Polish holiday traditions.
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities: Polish paper cutting, "Spiders" with Dr. Petra Sierwald, Kwanzaa activities

Friday, December 29

Performances: 1:00 p.m. Nelson Sosa presents Latin-American musical

traditions

2:30 p.m. Nelson Sosa presents Latin-American musical traditions

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities: Ojos de dios, boleros, Pinata display, tours of Mesoamerica exhibit, Kwanzaa activities

Saturday, December 30

Performances by the Chinese American Service League:

1:00 p.m. Chinese Lion Dance, martial arts and other dances

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities: Chinese fortune telling with Dr. Bennet Bronson; Chinese lanterns, New Year's greetings, and more by the Chinese-American Service League; tangrams; Kwanzaa gifts

Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve

Performance: 1:00 p.m. Chinese dances, The Naperville Chinese School

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Activities: Hanukkah display and dreidle activity, activities by the Turkish Consulate, Kwanzaa display and activities, jump rope and yo-yo's.

MS. MERIDIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!! Voice Mail is at 80% capacity ...
System May Quit Accepting Messages

Voice mail storage is almost to capacity! This may result in NO messages being accepted throughout the system. After listening to your voice mail messages, please clear them by pressing 76# after each one. *If you are going on vacation or will be away from the Museum, please plan to have someone in your department take your messages and clear them from your voice mail. They will need your password. Thank you for your assistance.*

T'was the night before yuletide in Stanley Field Hall,
and all the dead animals were having their ball.

The elephants dancing with nary a care,
and brachiosaurus kept time by the stair.

The relic was snug in his underground bed,
and the creatures all knew they had nothing to dread.

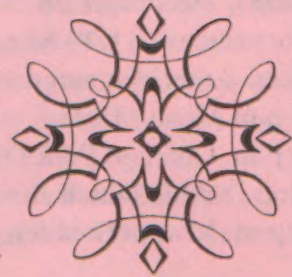
With visions of good times, none did demure,
as they polished their paws and slicked down their fur.

Then down from the third floor there came a great shout.
The beetles, the blackbirds, the field mice were out!

They surged out from the cabinets and left all their cases,
with clicking and cawing threw over their traces.

The moon through the skylight gave a great glow,
and shown on the creatures prancing below.

To wondering eyes the stones did appear,
spun around, rocked and rolled to add cheer.



The music abounded until the wee hours,
and the botany friends did the waltz of the flowers.

The one night of the year they would all come alive,
laughing and talking and giving high fives.

There's Leo and Donald and Mickey and Bruin,
There's slippery snake - "Hey, how ya' doin'?"

From Pacific to Africa the noise spread like fire,
the mummies just grinned as they strummed on their lyres.

The statues awoke, Egyptian and Byzantine,
and danced in the hallway and sang in the mezzanine.

The portraits were chanting to praise founders' spirits,
happy and smiling, they got right into it.

Then, exactly at midnight they all became solemn,
and gathered around the beautiful columns.

They left the dark hallways, made libation quite handy,
and lifting their mugs toasted V.P.'s and Sandy.

And I heard them exclaim as they put out the light,
HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

The Office of Academic Affairs welcomes **Cathy Geraghty**, who recently joined the staff of the Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Biological Diversity (ATP). Cathy will help with the current fund-raising effort for the next phase of the program, and she will assist with activities for the 1996 sessions ATP. Cathy, who received her M.S. in Ecology and Evolution from the University of Illinois at Chicago, has done research on restoration practices, high altitude tiger salamanders, and captive western lowland gorillas. Before coming to ATP, she worked with the Committee for the National Institute for the Environment as a Science Advisor and Program Officer, and at the Munson Foundation as a Program Officer. Cathy's office is in the ATP offices, and her extension is 598.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon Series will be closed for the Tuesday after Christmas, December 26.

The report of the December 19 Noon Balloon will appear in next week's *Natural News*.

Thanks!

A special thanks to all those who made this year's Staff Holiday Fest a wonderful success:

Liz Adams
James Atkinson
Paul Baker
Andrew Bluntson
Bob Cazy
Margaret Curran
Lionel Dunn
Cynthia Gulley
Louis Guy

Patrick Hanrahan
Tony Hanrahan
Robert Harris
Tyrece Hunter
Rose Neumann
Laurie Sanders
Heidi Snell
Doris Thompson
Henry Tucker

Frost Lighting

Staff members who did not receive their gift at the Holiday Fest may stop by the Personnel office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The editors of *RELISH* apologize for a MAJOR (albeit inadvertent) omission in the Foreword in the first 75 copies of the cookbook (brought to our attention by the sensitive, vigilant and caring Fui-Lian Inger), rectified in subsequent "printings," We did not acknowledge our contributors. It won't happen again!

Andrew Leman

Elaine Zeiger

Congratulations to Geoff Grove, of the Exhibits Department, and Jean Rattenbury on the birth of their daughter, Ellen Elizabeth. Ellen arrived on December 9, weighing in at 7 lbs 12 oz!.

A FOND FAREWELL

The Exhibits Department would like to bid a fond farewell to Harvey Matthew, controller in the Exhibits Department. Harvey will be retiring after having completed over twenty years of distinguished service to Field Museum. Please join us at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 27, in Dining Room C&D to wish Harvey good luck in future endeavors.

With regret, we extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of former staff member, **William "Bill" Frederick Thompson**, who passed away on October 7, 1995. Bill was employed at The Field Museum in 1980 and in 1982 became one of the first staff members to straddle the departments of Membership and Security by serving as Information Booth Representative. He was dubbed "Mr Information" by his colleagues because there was virtually no inquiry from visitor, member, or staff that Bill couldn't answer. Bill retired in 1988.

The *Natural News* is edited by Carolyn Klyce in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper. ♻️

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES

Diane White and the Public Services staff would like to say goodbye and offer best wishes to **Sharon Cook**, Administrative Assistant, Public Services. Sharon is resigning after working nine successful years within Facility Planning and Public Services as a support person.

Sharon's educational background is in environmental studies. She has excepted an Administrative Assistant position with Nova Environmental Services, an environmental consulting firm.

Please join us at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, in Lecture Hall II to wish Sharon good luck and continued success in her future endeavors.

FAMILY ADMISSION/DISCOUNT CARDS

The 1996-1997 Family Admission/Discount Cards are in the process of being distributed to staff through inner-Museum mail. The cards entitle family of the staff member whose name is printed on the card to receive a 20% discount on Museum Store purchases and free admission to The Field Museum. The 1996-1997 cards are laminated for your convenience. Please destroy your 1994-1995 card and replace it with the new one.

We extend sincere sympathy to the friends and family of **Roger Buelow** (Library) who passed away Thursday, December 21, 1995. At his request there will be no services, but condolences can be sent to his mother, Fern Buelow in care of the Personnel Office. A fuller tribute will be in next week's issue..